

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-4  
SUBJ: PINS SY  
SUBJ: POTENTIAL IDENTIFICATION OF DRUZE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR  
SOME DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

1. EMBOFF INVITED BY MFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR HAMOUD SHOUFI FOR FAREWELL DINNER AT SHOUFI HOME EVENING JULY 8 TOLD BY SHOUFI THAT HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED PREVIOUS DAY BY GROUP CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN SYRIA. SHOUFI SAID GROUP CONSISTED OF PEOPLE "ALL UNDER AGE THIRTY." ASKED WHETHER THEIR SECTARIAN AFFILIATION WAS ALAWITE OR SUNNI, SHOUFI SURPRISED EMBOFF BY DECLARING THEY WERE DRUZE. HE SAID THEY WERE VERY SHREWD INDIVIDUALS, ALBEIT SOMEWHAT NAIVE, AND GROWING INCREASINGLY DESPERATE. ACCORDING TO SHOUFI, IN THEIR DESPERATION THEY TOOK WHAT HE VIEWS AS VERY SERIOUS RISK OF CONTACTING HIM AND TWO OR THREE OTHERS TO DELIVER A MESSAGE AND SEEK ADVICE.

2. SHOUFI SAID THEIR MESSAGE WAS THAT OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME WITH POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONNECTIONS HAD BETTER MOVE QUICKLY AGAINST THE REGIME OR THE GROUP WOULD "BRING THE WHOLE STRUCTURE DOWN ON EVERYONE'S HEAD," INCLUDING THEIR OWN. ASKED WHAT MOTIVATED THEM, SHOUFI RESPONDED THEY MOTIVATED BY "CONCERN FOR DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL." HE SAID, "THEY KNOW WHAT THEY DO NOT WANT AND  
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DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY DO WANT."

3. SHOUFI GUESSED THAT IT WAS STILL PREMATURE FOR OPPONENTS OF AL-ASSAD TO MOUNT SUCCESSFUL COUP ATTEMPT. NONETHELESS, HE SAID HE KNEW SOME IMPORTANT ALAWITES VERY WELL, "WELL ENOUGH TO PUT MY LIFE IN THEIR HANDS." (COMMENT: IMPLICATION OF THIS STATEMENT WAS THAT SHOUFI INTENDED TO

CONTACT THEM TO SHARE HIS INFORMATION.)

4. ASKED IF HE FELT HE WAS BEING ENTRAPPED OR BEING USED BY A GROUP TAKING CREDIT FOR ACTIONS NOT THEIR OWN, SHOEFI RESPONDED THAT HE COULD NOT BE ENTIRELY CERTAIN HIS CONTACTS WERE GENUINE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER THAT "SOMETIMES ONE MUST RELY ON HIS INSTINCTS. I BELIEVE I AM DEALING WITH AUTHENTIC PEOPLE WHO ARE AS THEY DESCRIBE THEMSELVES."

5. SHOEFI ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE CONTACTED AMERICANS WITH INFORMATION THAT COUP ATTEMPT WAS BEING PLANNED. WOULD WE BETRAY PLOTTERS TO THE REGIME? EMBOFF'S ANSWER IN ESSENCE WAS YES. HE STRESSED U.S. HAD DEALT AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DEAL ONLY WITH LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA. OPPONENTS OF REGIME SHOULD COUNT ON RECEIVING NO ASSISTANCE FROM U.S.

6. COMMENT:

SHOEFI'S STORY HAS PLAUSIBLE RING. IF GROUP REALLY CONSISTS OF DRUZE, SHOEFI AS A PROMINENT DRUZE PERSONALITY WHO FORMERLY PLAYED LEADING ROLE IN BAATH PARTY AND IS KNOWN CRITIC OF AL-ASSAD REGIME WOULD BE A NATURAL TARGET FOR GROUP TO CONSULT. TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT AS YET FOCUSED ON POSSIBILITY THAT DRUZE MIGHT BE PERPETRATORS OF LATEST VIOLENCE. (FROM PREVIOUS  
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REPORTING, DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT SUSPICION CENTERS ON DISSIDENT ALAWITES, SUNNIS, IRAQIS AND EVEN REGIME ITSELF.) IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ABOVE DETAILS OF DRUZE CONSPIRACY WILL REACH SARG SECURITY THROUGH NORMAL SARG PENETRATIONS OF GROUP WITH WHOM SHOEFI ASSOCIATES. IN THEIR DESPERATION, THESE YOUNG DRUZE HAVE PROBABLY MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE.

7. WE ADD THAT EVEN IF THIS REPORT IS TRUE, IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS NEWLY IDENTIFIED GROUP IS ONLY ONE AMONG SEVERAL WHICH HAVE ENGAGED IN DOMESTIC ACTS OF VIOLENCE OVER PAST MONTHS.  
MURPHY

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